

**Draft Remarks for Congressman Henry A. Waxman**  
**Children's Defense Fund**  
September 30, 2014

What a pleasure it is to be with Marian Edelman, Stan Dorn, and—of course—my good friend George Miller and all of you at the Children's Defense Fund. It's a real honor for me to be thanked by this group, because CDF and its many allies have been such heroes for kids over the years.

I've always known that if we needed help—you would be there. And I hope you've always known that when you needed help—which means when children needed help – I would be there. We have made a good team over the years.

It's a team that together has won some major fights.

- We preserved Medicaid when Ronald Reagan wanted to block grant it.
- We gave States the option to expand Medicaid for all poor children when OMB wanted to cap it.
- We required States to cover all poor children—year by year in a gradual phase in—when Republicans wanted to end the entitlement.
- We created the Children's Health Insurance Program for low-income children when many wanted to cut back on government help.
- And now we have opened up Medicaid to all poor people, regardless of what category or pigeonhole they may fit in. And we finally have a system of health insurance that can reach all Americans and help low- and middle-income people pay for it.

This doesn't mean that all the work is done.

- We have always struggled to enroll all eligible children. That work is still with us.
- The Supreme Court has thrown a wrench into the Medicaid expansion. The work of State-by-State expansion will still require time and organizing.

- Even in the Obama Administration, the budget-makers have thrown the “family glitch” in the way of affordable coverage.
- And now it’s time to renew the CHIP program, with its safety net coverage and benefits.

None of this is going to be easy to fix. But this team has faced worse and won over and over again.

I’m retiring from the Congress now, but I’m not retiring from these issues. You can still rely on me, and I look forward to continuing our teamwork.

Thank you.